

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EUR-25 AID-20 DRC-01 /171 W

----- 041307

R 060520Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8718

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: AP STORY ALLEGING THIEU "MIGHT" SEEK US AIR SUPPORT

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE NOTICED AP WIRE SERVICE STORY DATED
BIEN HOA NOVEMBER 1 WHICH CARRIED FOLLOWING LEAD:

BEGIN QUOTE:

PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU INDICATED THURSDAY
THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFENSIVE HE CLAIMS IS IN THE
OFFING MIGHT PROMPT HIM TO SEEK RENEWED AMERICAN AIR
SUPPORT. END QUOTE.

2. PRESIDENT THIEU ATTENDED A NATIONAL DAY CEREMONY NOVEMBER 1
AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER NEAR BIEN HOA. FOLLOWING
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THE CEREMONY, HE MADE A FEW INFORMAL REMARKS TO CLUSTERING

NEWSMEN. FINDING NO RECORD OF ANY STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT THIEU VAGUELY RESEMBLING THE ABOVE WE ENQUIRED OF AP HERE AND LEARNED THAT AMONG NEWSMEN PRESENT WAS AN AP LOCAL EMPLOYEE WHO TAPED THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND NEWSMEN:

BEGIN QUOTE:

A. IF THERE IS ANOTHER MAJOR OFFENSIVE WOULD YOU THINK IT NECESSARY TO CALL UPON AMERICAN AIR POWER?
A. THAT DEPENDS ON HOW WE CAN DEAL WITH IT, BECAUSE YOU HAVE ONE THING TO REMEMBER. THEY (NORTH VIETNAM) ARE VERY INTENSIVELY AND RICHLY AND CONTINUOUSLY SUPPLIED BY RUSSIA AND RED CHINA WITH VERY SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS. MEANWHILE WE ARE LIMITED TO ABIDING BY THE AGREEMENT AND JUST ONE FOR ONE AND UP TO NOW WE HAVE NOT YET REPLACED ONE FOR ONE. WE HAVE NOT BEEN REINFORCED. MEANWHILE, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN REINFORCED DESPITE THE AGREEMENT. WHEN YOU MAKE A COMPARISON BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM OR BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAME AND THE SO CALLED NLF, IT DOES NOT MATTER. BUT YOU CAN'T COMPARE THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM WITH RUSSIA AND RED CHINA TOGETHER. END QUOTE.

3. OUR IMAGINATION IS TAXED IN SEEKING TO RECONSTRUCT PROCESS BY WHICH AP MANAGED TO COMPOSE ITS LEAD FROM WHAT WAS ACTUALLY SAID.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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